



**Sandymount Elementary School**  
**2222 Old Westminster Pike**  
**Finksburg, MD 21048**  
**410-751-3215/Fax 410-751-3925**



# CHIPMUNK CHATTER

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Summer 2011

**Wendy K. Leishear**  
**Principal**

**Jane M. Kacmarski**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Welcome Back Edition

Dear Sandymount Families,

We hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to an exciting school year at Sandymount! We hope that parents will be able to join us for the grade-level back-to-school nights. At this time teachers will be explaining the curriculum and expectations for students so we can work together for your child. We will also be offering volunteer training before and after each program. Please remember that as of September 30th all previous volunteer training expires and each adult who volunteers, including by attending field trips, must have current training.

This year we are welcoming several new faculty members. Mrs. Lisa Johnson will be our school nurse on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs. Lisa Sauro-Martin and Mrs. Theresa Dick are our new second grade teachers. Ms. Sarah Redmond is our pre-kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Suzanne Thomas is our new instructional assistant.

Our first PTA meeting of the year is September 17th at 7 pm. We are excited that Playtime will be working with us to offer childcare during the meetings at no charge. We hope that all families will join PTA. There are also lots of opportunities to participate in events.

We look forward to working with all of our families to ensure students achieve the highest level possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help your child in any way.

**S—Strategic Thinkers**

**E—Excited Learners**

**S—Successful Leaders**



Sincerely,  
Wendy K. Leishear  
Principal

Jane Kacmarski  
Assistant Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Back-to-School Night Grade K — August 24, 7:00 pm

Back-to-School Night Grades 1 and 2 — September 1, 7:00 PM

Back-to-School Night Grades 3 — September 7, 7:00 PM

Back-to-School Night Grade 4 and 5 — September 6, 7:00 pm

Boy Scout Open House — September 12, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

PTA Meeting—September 21, 2011 \*Childcare will be provided by Playtime

**Volunteer Training will be offered at 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm each Back to School Night—training must be renewed every year.**

## Parent Drop-Off Procedures

1. Upon entering the Sandymount entrance, drive toward the back of the school (1st and 2nd grade side of the building), keep to the right of the yellow center line.
2. Once at the loop in the rear of the building (near dumpsters), go around the outside loop keeping to the right, and proceed down the side by the curb.
3. DO NOT STOP at back entrance (entrance for deliveries and daycare drop-off).
4. There are zebra lines //// painted and signs indicating the student drop-off area.
5. Stop and let your child exit your vehicle. School personnel will be at the door. Remind children to be ready to exit your vehicle promptly, since at least six cars or vans can be unloading at the same time.
6. At all times, private vehicles are to yield to school buses and pedestrians.

## Parent Pick-Up Procedures

Parents picking up their children at dismissal time are asked to park on the side or lower lot and enter the building at the loading dock door. (This door will be locked **UNTIL** 3:45 each day.) Parents are asked to proceed to the right and enter the gym. Immediately following afternoon announcements, parent pick-up students will be dismissed to the gym.

Parents must come inside to the parent pick-up area (Gym) and initial the sign out page before leaving with their child. Please do not be offended if the staff member on duty does not know you and asks for identification. Also, if someone other than a parent is to pick up your child, their name **MUST** be on the emergency card or your child will not be released to them.

If your child will be permanent pick up each day, you will **ONLY** need to send one note on the first day of school indicating this, and they will be added to the list daily. Also, send one note if your child will be picked up consistently each week on a certain day (i.e., every Monday, Tuesday, etc.). These students will also be added as per your instructions, and there will be no need to send additional notes unless there is a change. Students needing to be picked up "on occasion" will need to bring a note, and they will be added to the list. Individual names will **NOT** be called each afternoon. Teachers will be given a list daily, and they will be responsible for dismissing those students at the appropriate time. **FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REQUEST THAT YOUR CHILD BE ADDED TO THE PARENT PICK UP LIST OVER THE PHONE. FAXED AND E-MAILED REQUESTS WILL, HOWEVER, BE ACCEPTED. ALL REQUESTS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY 1:00 P.M.** In the event that you should need to pick up your child at the last minute and you have not had the opportunity to send or fax a note, it will be necessary for you to go to the office to sign them out before going to the gym.

**When sending a note for parent pick up, please include the student(s) first and last name, teacher's name, AND first and last name of person picking up the student.**

Your support of these procedures is appreciated.

### ADA STATEMENT

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons with regard to its employment practices and in the provision of services, programs, and activities.

The CCPS does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. The CCPS provides non-discriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Gregory J. Bricca  
Directory of Research and Accountability  
125 North Court Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410.751.3068

## Visitor's Badges

Please remember that **visitors** entering Sandymount Elementary School will be required to report to the office to sign in and get a badge. Upon leaving the building visitors are required to sign out and return the badge to the office. This is required even if you are just walking your child to his/her classroom. The only children going into the first grade door at parent drop-off in the morning will be those students entering the building without an adult. Staff members will be monitoring the hallways. Anyone without a badge will be asked to return to the school office and sign in and get a badge or leave the building. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us make Sandymount Elementary School a safe place for our students.

### Carroll Co. Public School Policy regarding Late Arrivals and Leaving Early

**LATE ARRIVAL:** Any student who arrives at school within one hour of the start of the school day shall be considered "tardy" in the a.m. However, a student arriving at school more than one hour late will be marked absent one-half day (absent in the morning).

**LEAVING EARLY:** Any student leaving school within one hour of regular dismissal shall be considered 'tardy' in the p.m. However, a student leaving school more than one hour before regular dismissal time shall be considered absent one-half day (absent in the afternoon).

**ABSENCE:** A student is counted absent for a full day if the student is present one hour or less of the school day. Send in a note the following day with a reason for the absence.

## Chipper Cafe

Carroll County Public Schools Food Service Department is proud to offer our Annual Meal Plan (AMP) for the 2011-2012 school year. By purchasing the AMP your child is eligible to receive one nutritious meal per school day for the entire year. Another opportunity for prepaid lunches is to purchase 20 (\$40.00) or 30 (\$60.00) lunches at a time or any amount you wish that can be used any time during the year. Ice cream cannot be prepaid. Breakfast will be served for \$1.25. Students receiving Free and Reduced lunches may get breakfast for \$.30. Lunch prices are \$2.00 for student lunch; \$.40 for reduced lunch; \$.50 milk; and \$.75 for ice cream. In addition, there will be homemade cookies and other snacks for \$.25 to \$.75. AMP forms will be students take home folders and also on the school's website.



### Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications

Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications: Families with students enrolled in Carroll County Public Schools will be required to submit only one application per household to apply for free or reduced-priced meals for the 2011-2012 school year. Applications will be in your child's take home folder or on Sandymount's website.

The CCPS Gifted and Talented Program is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Gifted and Talented teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Gifted and Talented teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5, including the Primary Education Thinking Skills for grade 2. Look for more information concerning the upcoming Gifted and Talented Education Program Orientation Night.

## Safety At The Bus Stop

Several bus stops in our school's area serve large number of students. It is great to see so many parents doing their part in supervising their children to and from the stop and while they are waiting at the stop. Please review the following points in making this a safe experience for everyone.

- Please make sure your child stays with you walking to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus.
- Please make sure while waiting at the bus stop students are respectful of the property of others and traffic in the area.
- If you must drive to the bus stop, please park far enough away as to not block the sight distance of the bus driver and other motorists in the area. (At least 30 ft. from the stop.)
- After the students are loaded on the bus, please make sure the area is safe for the bus driver to leave and other traffic to resume before pulling out or walking away.

## Bus Transportation

School bus route information will be published in the local newspaper. They appeared in the *Carroll County Times* on **August 23, 2011** & is available on the CCPS website. If you are confused about your bus stop location, please call the school. The routes will also be posted on the front doors of the school.



Video/audio cameras are placed on school buses to protect students and staff and provide for a safe and orderly environment. The privacy of students and the recording are kept secure and are reviewed only by the authorized Carroll County Public Schools personnel.

## Board of Education Bus Stop Policy (one a.m. stop & one p.m. stop)

According to Carroll County policy, the Transportation Department allows each student only one a.m. and one p.m. bus stop location. This policy gives parents the following responsibilities:

1. Determine a set schedule for bus riding.
2. Make provision for alternate transportation for their child rather than a change in buses or stops.

This policy was written and is enforced to ensure your child's safety. In an emergency the administrator may approve a change in your child's bus riding schedule.

## Student Handbooks and Calendars

A student handbook provided by the Carroll County Public Schools is available online and will be given to new students and kindergarteners. If you would like one, you may pick it up in the main office. The Sandymount handbook will be sent home during the first week of school. Please read the handbooks and keep them handy as a reference throughout the school year. CCPS' Official Calendar will be sent home with the youngest student in your family as soon as we receive them from the printers.



## Inclement Weather-Related Delayed Openings or Early Dismissals

Please review the Inclement Weather Policy in the Carroll County Public Schools' Informational Calendar that will be sent home with your youngest child early in the school year. The policy outlined pertains to extreme heat and humidity, as well as ice and snow. **BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY THE YELLOW INCLEMENT WEATHER FORM INCLUDED IN YOUR CHILD'S TAKE-HOME FOLDER.**

## Emergency Cards

It is necessary for us to have the emergency cards signed and all information completed in order to carry out your wishes in case of an emergency. Please complete the appropriate part on the front of the emergency card to indicate anyone who has your permission to pick up your child.

**STUDENTS ARE NOT RELEASED TO ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT UNLESS HIS/HER NAME IS INDICATED ON THE EMERGENCY CARD.**

***\*\*\*Please make sure all phone numbers and email addresses are correct on your student's emergency card!\*\*\****

## Alert Now Communication System

The Carroll County Public School System is using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents with information from their child's schools and the school system. You do not have to sign up for this system. All information is taken from emergency procedure cards.

## Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, information, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

### Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

## Sandymount Individual Picture Day

**Picture Day has been scheduled for September 21, 2011.** More information will come home closer to the date. If your child is not in school on that date, a make-up day picture day will be scheduled.

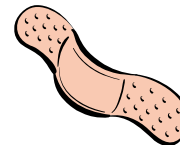
### Notice

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Plant Operations located at: 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos-containing materials, if any are located in the school building.

## Notes from the Nurse

**Emergency Procedure Cards**—It is extremely important that Emergency Procedures Cards included in each student's take home folder the first day of school, be completed and returned to school **IMMEDIATELY**. We depend on this information to contact you in many situations. *If you change jobs, move or get a new phone number, please inform the school office, **IN WRITING**, immediately.* There is nothing more frightening to a sick or injured child than not being able to contact his/her parent in case of emergency or illness. Please be sure to:

- Review the accuracy of the preprinted information
- Make any necessary changes
- Complete **ALL** requested information
- Provide at least 2 emergency contact persons, other than parents, in priority order



**Medication Consent Forms**—A Medication Consent Form will be included in each student's take-home folder. Please retain this form in case you need it during the school year. If your child needs medication during the school day, you must return the completed medication consent form to the school nurse along with the medication in its original container clearly labeled with the student's name. **STUDENTS MAY NOT TRANSPORT MEDICATION.**

## Helpful Hints

**Book bags:** As you purchase school supplies, please keep in mind that book bags must be able to fit into your child's locker with ease; therefore book bags on wheels are not appropriate.

**Back to School Edition of the Carroll County Times:** Please be sure to check the bus listings in the newspapers (The Carroll County Times Back to School Edition will be published on August 23, 2011. *Please do not assume that the bus your child rode last year will be the same bus this year.* Times and bus numbers can vary from year to year.

**First Day Hint to Parents:** Please put your child on the school bus the first day of school, if at all possible. This enables us to record the bus in which your child has been assigned and will ensure that they go home on the correct bus. Please make sure your children know which bus they are riding to and from school. If your child comes to school on a different bus than the one that brings him/her home, please send a note the first day of school listing both bus numbers.

**Playtime at Sandymount (before and after care):** If your child attends Playtime, the before and after school care located in our cafeteria, please send a note stating whether your child is "before and after" day-care or just "before **OR** after".

## 2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal Days

Students will dismiss on the dates below at 1:00 p.m. Students may not ride a bus other than the one they have been assigned on these days or any other day. These afternoons are professional, teacher collaboration and planning days.

October 3	December 9	March 5
November 3	December 23	May 11
November 14	February 10	June 14



## Sandymount Procedures

In order to continue to provide a safe environment for our students, we will not have edible birthday treats. While we acknowledge the importance of celebrating our students birthdays, the increase in serious food allergies, concerns with childhood obesity, as well as the transmission of communicable diseases has forced us to implement this new policy.

We will continue to announce student birthdays during morning announcements and students will receive a book from the PTA during their birthday month. We also invite parents to join their child for lunch in our cafeteria (please bring a lunch from home or order from the cafeteria menu). Teachers will be sending a list of useful suggestions for the classroom and students if you choose send in a birthday (non-edible) treat.

With the increased concern of spreading the H1N1 virus along with the many germs that children share, we *are asking parents to send in a bottle of Purell hand sanitizer. **This is the only brand we are allowed to distribute in schools.*** If for some reason your child cannot use this brand, you may provide them with their own personal sanitizer. This will not be shared with other students.

### CCPS 2011-2012 Volunteer Program—Making a Difference Together

The Carroll County Public School System encourages and welcomes volunteers. Volunteers strengthen ties with families, community members, and business partners by involving all citizens in the crucial matter of educating our youth. For the professional educator, the volunteer is a valuable resource who provides an extra pair of caring hands to support meaningful student learning. In addition, volunteers share many varied and unique experiences that help encourage students to strive to reach their highest potential.

The volunteer program at Carroll County Public Schools utilizes the talents of all interested citizens in the following capacities:

- **Level I Volunteers:** guest speakers, business representatives, concession stand workers, etc.—must annually register at the school site before volunteering.
- **Level II Volunteers:** classroom helpers, chaperones, mentors, etc.— are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. In addition, all Level II volunteers selected as chaperones for overnight trips/activities will be subject to a background check prior to the scheduled overnight trip/activity. Background request forms must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled overnight trip/activity. Volunteer training is available at local schools or regional sites throughout Carroll County. A comprehensive schedule of the 2011-2012 training sessions will be available through school newsletters/bulletins, local newspapers, Carroll Educational Television Channel 21 and/or the school system's website.

**Training for current volunteers is only valid through September 30, 2011.** If you need more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact a local school or the Carroll County Public School Volunteer Program Coordinator at 410-386-1536.

Volunteer training will be held at Sandymount before and after each grade level Meet the Teacher night. Dates for additional volunteer training sessions will be furnished in future newsletters. See the Carroll County Public School's website, <http://www.carr.org/ccps> for training sessions at other locations.

### Scouting Open House

The Carroll District of the Boy Scouts of America will be holding a recruiting night on September 12 from 6:30—9:00 pm. They are targeting boys in grades 1 through 5 into Cub Scout packs. If interested, please stop by the school or contact Doug Hirth at [jd.cm.hirth@verizon.net](mailto:jd.cm.hirth@verizon.net).